

REMARKS

The claims now pending in the application are Claims 1 to 18, the independent claims being Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15. Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 10, 15 and 17 have been amended.

In the Official Action, Claims 1 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,808,667 (Sugiyama), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,278,603 (Kazumi). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Initially, Applicant notes that the Examiner refers to the “Suzuki” patent in the “Response to Amendment” at pages 2 and 3 of the above-identified Office Action; however, no Suzuki patent has been made of record. Applicant understand the Examiner’s comments refer to the Sugiyama patent, of record. Otherwise, the Examiner is requested to make the “Suzuki” patent of record and reissue the present Action.

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the Examiner’s characterization of the references or the rejection, Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 10, 15 and 17 have been amended herein to recite more clearly various novel feature of the present invention. Support for the proposed amendments may be found in the original application. No new matter has been added.

The present invention relates to a novel apparatus and method for displaying images recorded by a camera. In one aspect, as now generally recited in independent Claims 1 and 10, the apparatus and method include, inter alia, the feature of a device or step that outputs signals to display images based on focus area information read by a

reading device or step, such that the display images are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera.

In a similar aspect, as now recited in independent Claims 6 and 15, the present invention relates to an apparatus and method for displaying images recorded by a camera including, inter alia, the features of a device or step that processes and outputs images captured by an image-capture sensor by using the information read by a reading device, including information regarding a focus area used during image capture, such that the display images are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the present invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Sugiyama patent relates to a method of automatically regenerating and printing film images, and discloses a camera that records various kinds of magnetic data for each frame in a magnetic record layer on a film; specifically, the Sugiyama patent discloses the following magnetic data recorded on the magnetic record layer: a frame number, a print format which indicates either hi-vision, panoramic, or normal print mode, the date or time of photographing, data relating to the type of film, a bar code indicating frame numbers, and a frame format which is made by the light source provided in the camera. However, Applicant submits that the Sugiyama patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature of the present invention. Initially, as noted by the

Examiner, "Sugiyama fails to disclose the use of focus area information as the read information." Moreover, the Sugiyama patent particularly fails to disclose or suggest outputting display images based on focus area information read by a reading device or step, such that the display images are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (independent Claims 1 and 10). Similarly, the Sugiyama patent fails to disclose or suggest the features of processing and outputting images captured by an image-capture sensor by using the information read by a reading device, including information regarding a focus area used during image capture, such that the display images are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (independent Claims 6 and 15).

The Kazumi patent relates to a camera, and discloses a camera in which a user can set a plurality of camera operations on the basis of a signal from information reading and supplying means, such as a bar code reader. The Kazumi patent contemplates using a plurality of example photographs with a bar code next to each photograph (as shown, for example, in Figure 10), allowing a user to select camera operations using a bar code list and bar code reader. That is, bar code information located next to an example photograph is transmitted to the camera control circuit to thereby effect control of a plurality of control items to match the image recording characteristics of the example photograph in a current/new image. However, Applicant submits that the Kazumi patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the present invention or remedy the above discussed deficiencies of the Sugiyama patent. In particular, Applicant

submits the Kazumi patent is not directed at all to outputting display images, let alone displaying these images such that they are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera, as disclosed and claimed in the present application (independent Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15). Nor is there any suggestion in the Kazumi patent to modify the regenerating and printing method of the Sugiyama patent; Applicant submits that the Kazumi patent fails to add anything to the Sugiyama patent that would make obvious the claimed invention.

For the above reasons, Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 are allowable over the cited art.

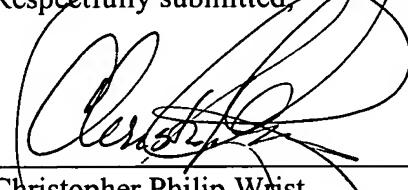
Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 9, 11 to 14, 16 and 18 depend from Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of independent Claims 1, 6, 10 and 15, and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Applicant requests that the present Amendment be entered under 37 CFR § 1.116. Applicant believes the present Amendment was necessitated by the Examiner's comments in the Official Action, and submits that the present amendments were not previously made because Applicant believes the prior claims are allowable.

Applicant believes that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in allowable form. Favorable consideration and passage to issue of the present application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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**VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Twice Amended) An apparatus that displays images recorded by a camera, said apparatus comprising:

a reading device that reads information regarding a focus area used in image recording by the [said] camera; and

an output device that outputs signals to display images based on the focus area information read by said reading device, such that the display images are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera.

2. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the focus area information read by said reading device represents a position of the [said] focus area used in the image recording by the [said] camera.

3. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said output device processes the images recorded by the [said] camera so that a position of the [said] focus area used in the image recording by the [said] camera is centered in a display, and outputs signals for displaying the processed images.

4. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said output device uses as a reference point a position of the [said] focus area used in the image recording by the [said] camera to enlarge the images recorded by the [said] camera, and outputs signals for displaying the enlarged images.

5. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said reading device includes a magnetic head that reads magnetic information recorded on a photographic film used in the [said] camera.

6. (Twice Amended) An apparatus that displays images recorded by a camera, said apparatus comprising:

an image-capture sensor for capturing images optically recorded on a photographic film;

a reading device that reads information magnetically recorded on the photographic film; and

an output device that processes and outputs the images captured by the image-capture sensor by using the information read by said reading device, including information regarding a focus area used during image capture, such that the display images are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera.

8. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said output device processes the images recorded by the [said] camera so that a position of the [said] focus area used in image capture is centered in a display, and outputs signals for displaying the processed images.

9. (Twice Amended) An apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said output device uses as a reference point a position of the [said] focus area used in image capture to enlarge the images recorded by the [said] camera, and outputs signals for displaying the enlarged images.

10. (Twice Amended) A method for displaying images recorded by a camera comprising:

reading information regarding a focus area used in image recording by the camera; and

outputting signals to display images based on the focus area information read in the reading step, such that the display images are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera.

15. (Twice Amended) A method for displaying images recorded by a camera comprising:

capturing images by an image-capture sensor, the images having been optically recorded on photographic film; reading information magnetically recorded on the photographic film; and processing and outputting the images captured by the image-capture sensor by using the information read in the reading step, including information regarding a focus area used during the image capture, such that the display images are centered around the focus area used in image recording by the camera.

17. (Twice Amended) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the processing and outputting step includes processing the images recorded by the [said] camera so that a position of the focus area used in image capture is centered in a display, and outputting signals to display the processed images.